

US Army Corps of Engineers. Philadelphia District

Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390 ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-OP-R- 200600641-15

JUN 1 6 2006

Application No.

File No.

In Reply Refer to:
REGULATORY BRANCH

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic

AGENT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District

Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, PA 19107

WATERWAY: Reserve Basin (Schuylkill River)

LOCATION: In the Reserve Basin of the Philadelphia Naval

Business Center (PNBC, formerly Philadelphia Naval

Shipyard)

ACTIVITY: The applicant proposes to dredge, by either mechanical or hydraulic means, a total of approximately 864,000 cubic yards of shoaled material from the bottom of the Reserve Basin and its entrance channel (approximately 109 acres). Most of the basin would be dredged to a target depth of 30 feet below mean low water for navigation purposes. An allowable overdredge of 1 foot would yield a proposed maximum depth of 31 feet below mean low water. This navigation dredging would account for approximately 796,000 cubic yards of the total material to be removed.

In addition, sediment characterization studies within the basin have identified portions of the shoaled material as having elevated concentrations of certain contaminants. The applicant proposes to remove this contaminated material from the basin, separately from the previously described dredging. Complete removal of the contaminated material would require dredging to a depth of 38 feet below mean low water at some locations in the basin. It is estimated that approximately 68,000 cubic yards of material would be dredged to accomplish this.

The existing depths in the basin and access channel range from approximately 18 to 30 feet below mean low water.

All of the material dredged from the basin would be transported via barge (if mechanically dredged) or pipeline (if hydraulically dredged) to the Ft. Mifflin Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) for dewatering and disposal. The Ft. Mifflin CDf is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District and is located at the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers approximately 3000 feet from the Reserve Basin entrance channel.

PURPOSE: The stated purpose of the proposed dredging is to provide and maintain adequate water depths in the basin for the safe and efficient storage of inactive Navy ships; and to remove material with elevated contaminant concentrations from the aquatic environment of the basin.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to

assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 30 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located within the permit area of the work.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary assessment of the species listed in the "Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, Volume IV: New Jersey and Delaware", dated March 1999, indicates that there is no EFH in the vicinity of the proposed project.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact of the proposed and/or existing activity on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office, with a copy to the State's Office of Coastal Zone Management.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling William H. Jenkins at (215) 656-5940 between the hours of 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. or writing this office at the above address.

Frank J. Cianfrani

Chief, Regulatery Branch

















